

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A component management system comprising:

a component database which registers component data regarding a plurality of components which have been examined based on a predetermined criterion and including their examination results;

a receiver which receives information regarding components;

an updating section which updates the component data registered in the component database[[,]] in accordance with ~~the~~ an examination based on the information received by said receiver; and

a selector which selects an arbitrary component from the plurality of components registered in the component database.

Claim 2 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, wherein:

said component data includes data representing whether each of the plurality of components is a component admitted to be purchased based on the examination results; and

said selector selects an arbitrary component from the plurality of components to be purchased, based on the component data.

Claim 3 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, wherein

the component data includes data representing whether each of the plurality of

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

components is a component admitted to be purchased based on the examination results, and
said selector warns that a component which is not admitted to be purchased is
selected, based on the component data.

Claim 4 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,
wherein the component data includes a recommendation to use a component based on the
examination results.

Claim 5 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,
wherein the component data includes a rating of a component determined by examination.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The component management system according to
Claim 5, wherein:

the component is examined based on the information [component data] received by
said receiver; and

said updating section includes

a register which registers, in the component database, the component data regarding
the plurality of components, which has been examined, and

an adjuster which adjusts a rating of each of the plurality of components in
accordance with results of re-examination based on the information received by said receiver.

Claim 7 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

further comprising

a system which provides a predetermined criterion based on which each of the plurality of components is examined, and

wherein the component database registers the component data regarding at least one component which satisfies the predetermined criterion.

Claim 8 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a system which provides a criterion based on which each of the plurality of components is examined, and

wherein the component data includes data representing whether each of the plurality of components satisfies the criterion.

Claim 9 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an input unit which inputs information for specifying a component; and

a retriever for retrieving a component which satisfies the input information from the component database.

Claim 10 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a catalogue database which stores an electronic catalogue specifically reporting information representing the plurality of components stored in the component database, and

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

wherein the component data registered in the component database is linked to information representing the electronic catalogue, so that the electronic catalogue can be accessed through the component data.

Claim 11 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an index-information storage which stores index information which can be an index for selecting a component; and

a reader which reads and provides, in response to a request, index information corresponding to the request from said index-information storage.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The component management system according to Claim 1, further comprising an improvement/cessation database storing improvement/cessation information representing if any of the plurality of components represented by the information received [retrieved] by said receiver [retriever] is improved, to be improved or not to be manufactured any more, and

wherein said updating section updates the component data registered in the component database, based on the improvement/cessation information registered in the improvement/cessation database.

Claim 13 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1, wherein said receiver is prepared commonly for a predetermined range of organizations.

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

Claim 14 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,
further comprising a terminal which requests for examination of a component.

Claim 15 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,
further comprising a terminal which selects a component for use in manufacturing a product,
of the plurality of components registered in the component database.

Claim 16 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,
further comprising:

an application terminal which applies for purchasing a component registered in the
component database; and

a purchase terminal which executes a process for purchasing the component in
response to the applying for purchasing the component.

Claim 17 (Original): The component management system according to Claim 1,
further comprising

a second database which stores a part of or entire copy of the information stored in the
component database; and

a terminal which updates said second database in accordance with a predetermined
examination criterion.

Claim 18 (Original): A component management method comprising:

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

settling an admission criterion for admitting a component;
examining a component based on the admission criterion, and registering the
component admitted by the examination in a component database;
receiving information regarding components;
updating the component data registered in the component database, in accordance
with the examination based on the received information and
selecting an arbitrary component from the plurality of components registered in the
component database based on the component data.

Claim 19 (Original): A component management method, comprising the steps of:
settling an admission criterion for admitting a component;
examining a component based on the admission criterion, and registering the
component admitted by the examination in a component database;
receiving improvement/cessation information about a component through a network;
updating the component database based on the received improvement/cessation
information, thereby updating contents of the component database based on the
improvement/cessation information; and
selecting a component which is to practically be used, from a plurality of components
registered in the component database.

Claim 20 (Original): The method according to Claim 19, further comprising the steps
of:

determining whether a component, included in the improvement/cessation information after being updated, can be a component to be purchased;

registering, in a case where it is determined that the component can be purchased, component information representing the determined component in the component database, and

lowering, in a case where it is determined that the component cannot be purchased, a rating of the component which has been determined as a component not to be purchased.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to Claim 19, further comprising:
preparing electronic information which can serve as an index for selecting a component; and

showing the electronic information, in response to a request for the information.

Claim 22 (Original): The method according to Claim 19, further comprising:
receiving the improvement/cessation information of components, and storing the received information in an improvement/cessation database, and

updating component information stored in the component database, based on the improvement/cessation information registered in the improvement/cessation database.

Claim 23 (Original): A component management system comprising:
a component database which registers component data regarding a plurality of components which have been examined based on a predetermined criterion and including

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

their examination results;

a receiver which receives information regarding the plurality of components;

a component-data updating section which updates the component data registered in the component database, in accordance with predetermined examination based on the information received by said receiver; and

selection means which selects an arbitrary component from the plurality of components registered in the component database.

Claim 24 (New): A component management system comprising:

a component database which registers component data regarding a plurality of components which have been examined based on a predetermined criterion and including their examination results;

a receiver which receives information regarding components; and

an updating section which updates the component data registered in the component database in accordance with an examination based on the information received by said receiver.

Claim 25 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, wherein:

said component data includes data representing whether each of the plurality of components is a component admitted to be purchased based on the examination results.

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

Claim 26 (New) The component management system according to Claim 24, wherein the component data includes data representing whether each of the plurality of components is a component admitted to be purchased based on the examination results.

Claim 27 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, wherein the component data includes a recommendation to use a component based on the examination results.

Claim 28 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, wherein the component data includes a rating of a component determined by examination.

Claim 29 (New): The component management system according to Claim 28, wherein:

the component is examined based on the information received by said receiver; and said updating section includes a register which registers, in the component database, the component data regarding the plurality of components, which has been examined, and an adjuster which adjusts a rating of each of the plurality of components in accordance with results of re-examination based on the information received by said receiver.

Claim 30 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

a system which provides a predetermined criterion based on which each of the plurality of components is examined, and

wherein the component database registers the component data regarding at least one component which satisfies the predetermined criterion.

Claim 31 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising a system which provides a criterion based on which each of the plurality of components is examined, and

Claim 32 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

an input unit which inputs information for specifying a component; and

a retriever for retrieving a component which satisfies the input information from the component database.

Claim 33 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising a catalogue database which stores an electronic catalogue specifically reporting information representing the plurality of components stored in the component database, and

wherein the component data registered in the component database is linked to information representing the electronic catalogue, so that the electronic catalogue can be accessed through the component data.

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

Claim 34 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

an index-information storage which stores index information which can be an index for selecting a component; and

a reader which reads and provides, in response to a request, index information corresponding to the request from said index-information storage.

Claim 35 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising an improvement/cessation database storing improvement/cessation information representing if any of the plurality of components represented by the information received by said receiver is improved, to be improved or not to be manufactured any more, and

wherein said updating section updates the component data registered in the component database, based on the improvement/cessation information registered in the improvement/cessation database.

Claim 36 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, wherein said receiver is prepared commonly for a predetermined range of organizations.

Claim 37 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising a terminal which requests for examination of a component.

Claim 38 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

comprising a terminal which selects a component for use in manufacturing a product, of the plurality of components registered in the component database.

Claim 39 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

an application terminal which applies for purchasing a component registered in the component database; and

a purchase terminal which executes a process for purchasing the component in response to the applying for purchasing the component.

Claim 40 (New): The component management system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

a second database which stores a part of or entire copy of the information stored in the component database; and

a terminal which updates said second database in accordance with a predetermined examination criterion.

Claim 41 (New): A component management method comprising:
settling an admission criterion for admitting a component;
examining a component based on the admission criterion, and registering the component admitted by the examination in a component database;
receiving information regarding components;

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

updating the component data registered in the component database, in accordance with an examination based on the received information.

Claim 42 (New): A component management method, comprising the steps of:
settling an admission criterion for admitting a component;
examining a component based on the admission criterion, and registering the component admitted by the examination in a component database;
receiving improvement/cessation information about a component through a network;
and
updating the component database based on the received improvement/cessation information, thereby updating contents of the component database based on the improvement/cessation information.

Claim 43 (New): The method according to Claim 42, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether a component, included in the improvement/cessation information after being updated, can be a component to be purchased;
registering, in a case where it is determined that the component can be purchased, component information representing the determined component in the component database;
and
lowering, in a case where it is determined that the component cannot be purchased, a rating of the component which has been determined as a component not to be purchased.

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

Claim 44 (New): The method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
preparing electronic information which can serve as an index for selecting a
component; and
showing the electronic information, in response to a request for the information.

Claim 45 (New): The method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
receiving the improvement/cessation information of components, and storing the
received information in an improvement/cessation database; and
updating component information stored in the component database, based on the
improvement/cessation information registered in the improvement/cessation database.

Claim 46 (New): A component management system comprising:
a component database which registers component data regarding a plurality of
components which have been examined based on a predetermined criterion and including
their examination results;
a receiver which receives information regarding the plurality of components;
a component-data updating section which updates the component data registered in
the component database, in accordance with predetermined examination based on the
information received by said receiver.

Claim 47 (New): A component management system comprising:
means for storing component data regarding a plurality of components which have

Docket. No.: 244379US-2 CONT
Inventor: Koichi ENDO

been examined based on a predetermined criterion and including their examination results

examination results;

means for receiving information regarding components; and

means for updating the component data stored in said storing means, in accordance
with an examination based on the information received by said receiving means.